



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 2833
Examiner : Brigitte R. Hammond
Serial No. : 10/024,859
Filed : December 18, 2001
Inventors : John W. Hall et al.
Title : RIGHT ANGLE PRINTED
CIRCUIT BOARD
: CONNECTOR APPARATUS, Docket No.: 17768
: METHODS AND ARTICLES Confirmation No.: 6139
: OF MANUFACTURE Dated: March 31, 2003



035811

PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Certificate of Mailing Under 37 CFR 1.8

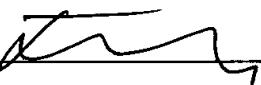
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RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action dated December 31, 2002. This response is being filed within the three month statutory period.

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Argument

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's review of the Office Action in the telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney today. As Applicant had noted in that conversation, the Examiner's rejection to claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wright, U.S. Patent No. 5,741,159 is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's rejection is predicated upon the Examiner's statement that Wright discloses an apparatus "...[with] a second ground component 90..." Applicant respectfully disagrees. Wright has, at 90, identified a male contact (see, e.g., Col. 4, lines 11-14: "In those instances where contact 16 is a male contact such as contact 16' of Fig. 6, a conventional male prong 90 will extend in the direction 24 away from the first portion 86.") Thus, Applicant submits, as he had in the telephone conversation, that

element 90 of Wright is a contact, not a grounding component. In fact, Applicant believes that contact 90 of Wright could not serve as a grounding component – the connection would short-out.

Applicant further submits that as Wright makes clear, element 90 and its contact 16' substitutes for contact 16 of Fig. 1. (See, e.g., Col. 4, lines 10-12: "As noted, contact 16 is depicted as a female contact in the form of a ferrule 18. In those instances where contact 16 is a male contact such as contact 16' of Fig. 6, a conventional male prong 90...") Thus, Applicant submits contact 16' (with its element 90) and contact 16 are interchangeable. Both function as contacts. Neither can function as a connection because the connection would apparently short-out.

Accordingly, Applicant submits, there appears to be no second grounding component in Wright. At most, and even if element 14 is taken to be a first grounding component, the balance of Wright merely appears to be contacts and their assembly.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wright U.S. Patent No. 5,741,159 as to claim 1 and the dependent claims 2, 4-6. As to independent claims 7, 9 and 10, Applicant submits the above argument applies as well insofar as the elements recited therein are similar to and include a second grounding element as had claim 1.

Applicant further respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) to claims 3 and 8 as being unpatentable over Wright, insofar as noted above these claims depend from an allowable independent claim.

Accordingly, Applicant seeks allowance of all claims in the case.

Respectfully submitted,



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